RAJYA SABHA

Thursday the 30th April, 1992/10 Vaisakha, 1914 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Mahendra Kumar Mohta, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha, who passed away on the 29th 1992 at the age of 65. He was a Member of this House representing the State of Rajasthan from 1968 to 1974.

Born at Calcutta in December, 1927, Shri Mohta had his education at Presidency College, Calcutta. An industrialist by vocation, Shri Mohta was closely associated with the Cotton Mills Federation and Indo-American Chamber of Commerce. He was President of the Rotary Club of Abohar, Northern India Cotton Textile Mills Association, and Uttar Bharat Employees' Association. Shri Mohta was also a member of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce. His business interests ranged from textiles to tea and steel. He was a delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Monte Carlo in 1970 and Paris in 1971. Shri Mohta was associated with several social welfare institutions in various capacities.

A person of affable nature, Shri Mohta during his membership of this House, took keen interest in industrial and fiscal matters. In the passing away of Shri Mohta, the country has lost an eminent industrialist and a philanthropist.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Mahendra Kumar Mohta.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIOIS

Revision of Wages in the Newspaper Industry

*61. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the All India Newspaper Employees Federation as well as written requests from the International Organisation of Journalists and International Graphical Federation demanding an early wage revision in the newspaper industry, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th April, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet their demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Representations have been received from various Associations and Organisations of Newspaper employees regarding revision of wages. In view of the fact that a large number of writ petitions challenging the Bachawat Wage Board Award under the Working Journalists Act are pending in the Supreme Court, it has been decided not to set up a new Wage Board for the Journalists and Non-Journalists employees for the present.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह वास्तव में इस बात का प्रतीक है कि अभी तक भी सरकार ने बछावत आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के बारे में गंभीरता से कोई निर्णय नहीं किया है। हम पत्रकारों से यह अपेक्षा तो करते हैं कि वे जीवन को खतरे में डालकर

†The question was actually asked on the Floor of the House by Shri Ramdas Agarwal

उन सारी सूचनाओं को हम तक पहुचायें जिनसे सारा समाज और राष्ट्र लाभान्वित हो। लेकिन दुःख का विषय यह है कि उन पत्रकारों के वेतन के संबंध में जो मामला है उसको हम टालते जा रहे हैं और उन मामलों में हम केवल टालू प्रकृति ही अपनाते जा रहे हैं। यह अनुचित है। महोदय, बछावत आयोग ने अपनी सिफारिशें 1988 से लागू करने के लिए कहा था। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से उसमें से केवल कुछ प्रतिशत–शायद 20 से 25 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा न्यूजपेपर्स जिनको बछावत आयोग की सिफारिशें लागू करनी चाहिए थी–उन्होंने लागू की हैं और बाकी के 80 प्रतिशत समाचार पत्रों ने इन सिफारिशों को लागू नहीं किया है। इसे लागू न करने का कारण हमारी समझ में नहीं आता है। सरकार ने ऐसा कहा है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केस चल रहा है, उसके कारण वह इसको लागू नहीं कर पा रही है। सभापति महोदय, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जो डाइरेक्टिव दिया है इस केस के संबंध में, वह मैं आपके सामने पढ़कर सुनाना चाहता हूं :

The Court said:

> "We direct that 1st January 1990 shall be taken as the date from which the benefit under the award becomes operative in regard in arrears up to 31-12-1989, 50 per cent of the arrears shall be paid within three months from today."

(*Interruptions*) I am asking the question.

यह जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने निर्णय दिया यह बहुत आवश्यक इसलिए है क्योंकि सरकार ने यह बहाना बनाया है कि मामला कोर्ट में पड़ा हैं, इसके कारण वह आगे कार्यवाही करने में असमर्थ है। लेकिन कोर्ट ने कहीं पर भी किसी प्रकार का स्टे नहीं दिया है, कहीं पर भी यह नहीं कहा है कि इस वेतन आयोग के सुझावों, सिफारिशों को लागू करने में कोई अड़चन है। किसी प्रकार की अड़चन न होते हुए भी आज तक इन पत्रकारों को इन सारे लाभों से वंचित किया गया है। मेरा प्रश्न आपके सामने यह है और इन सारी सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिये मैं सरकार से यह पूछना चाहता हूं, मेरे प्रश्न का पहला भाग यह है कि . . . (**व्यवधान**) महोदय, यह बहुत अहम विषय है और यह सारे पत्रकारों से सबंधित है। सारा देश इसके बारे में जानना चाहता है। सरकार की जो टालू नीति है और सरकार की केवल जो टरकाने की जो नीति है उसका विरोध करते हुए मैं प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने किसी प्रकार का स्टे ग्रांट नहीं किया है तो सरकार क्यों सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केस का बहाना लेकर इन पत्रों के मालिकों के दबाव या अन्य किसी दबाव में आकर इन सारी सिफारिशों को लागू करने से कतरा रही है? यह मेरे प्रश्न का पहला भाग है।

दूसरा जो बी भाग है . . .

श्री सभापति : अब खत्म हो गया।

He is asking that the court has not granted a stay. You may reply as to why you are not implementing it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): It is very true that Bachawat Award has not been implemented by the newspaper establishments, and it is very unfortunate. Out of 1583 newspaper establishments, only 574 have implemented the Award fully; 47 of them have implemented it partially and as many as 962 establishment have not implemented the Bachawat Award. But, Sir, the responsibility of implementing the Award does not lie with the Union Government. It is the responsibility of the State Government. The competent authority for implementation of the Award is the respective State Government. We are pursuing with the respective State Governments. I would, once again, take the opportunity of appealing to, and urging upon, the State Governments to ensure that the Bachawat Award is implemented fully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said about Supreme Court. In your reply, you have said that 'cases are pending before the Supreme Court'.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, there are two aspects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that the Supreme Court has not stayed.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I will explain the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do it. That is what he wants to know.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: There are two aspects to it. One aspect is the implementation of the Bachawat Award. This is one thing. I have explained the position.

The second part of the question relates to the constitution of a new Wage Board. This is another question. Now, at this stage, Government feels that it is not necessary to appoint a new Wage Board because, partly because, Supreme Court's final ruling is yet to come. Why we are taking the plea of Supreme Court ruling is that the Bachawat Award has been challenged by the establishments before the Supreme Court. There are as many as 24 cases pending. The petitioners have challenged the very basis, the very criteria, on which the wage increase has been determined by the Bachawat Committee. Since the basic issues are before the Supreme Court, until those issues are settled by the Supreme Court, we feel that there is no point in going in for a new Wage Board now because again, another petition will be filed before the Supreme Court That is the reason.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, मैं अब अपने प्रश्न का भाग (ब) पूछना चाहता हूं। अगर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कोई स्टे नहीं दिया है तो फिर आप उन मालिकों को जिन्होंने इसको इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं किया उनका प्रोसीक्यूशन क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं ?

श्री सभापति : वह कह रहे हैं कि इम्प्लीमेंटेशन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स का काम है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : लेकिन सुप्रीम कोर्ट का बहाना लगा कर इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं किया जाता है।

श्री सभापति : उनका कहना यह है कि दूसरा वेज बोर्ड इस लिए कायम नहीं कर रहे हैं क्यों कि मुकदमात सुप्रीमकोर्ट में अभी चल रहे हैं। जहां तक इम्प्लीमेंट का सवाल है। गवर्नमेंड आफ इंडिया तो चाहती है कि वह इम्प्लीमेंट हो। वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स कोयाददहानी करा रही है कि यह स्टेट गवनमेंट्स का काम है कि वह इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करें।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : आखिर कब तक यह चलेगा। दो साल हो गये हैं सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केस चलते हुए पत्रकारों का यह मामला दो साल से सुप्रीम कोर्ट में पड़ा हुआ है।

श्री सभापति : गवर्नमेंट देरी नहीं कर रही है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन केसेज के डिसपोजल के लिए आप कोई समय सीमा निर्धारित करें, कोई निश्चित समय सीमा होनी चाहिए आखिर जो आदमी श्रम करता है उसके प्रतिकार में उसको जो कुछ मिलता है यह प्रश्न उससे संबंधित है इसलिए इसको इतना लम्बा नहीं खींचा जाना चाहिए : आप इसके लिए कोई न कोई समय सीमा अवश्य निर्धारित करें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you fix a time-limit for the Supreme Court to take a decision? That is what he is asking, as I understand his question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The hon. Member has made one point. When the newspaper establishments are not implementing it, why are they not being prosecuted? This is a very valid question. Now, sections 17 and 18 of the Act provide for the prosecution of the establishments if they do not implement Wage Board awards. But unfortunately, effences under sections 17 and 18 of the Act are non-cognisable. Therefore, the complaint has to be lodged by the employees. This is one thing.

The second thing is, the Supreme Court, in its ruling.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: What is the use of it? Scrap it.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: My point is, the Supreme Court, in its judgement, in its interim order, has also said that pending the disposal of the case, pending the final disposal of the case, no prosecution should be launched. There is a stay on prosecution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shiv Pratap Mishra.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय,

MR. CHAIRMAI:

आपके दो प्रश्न हो गये हैं (**व्यवधान**) Nothing will go on record. Shri Shix Pratap Mishra.

अब कुछ रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : *

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that despite repeated directives from the Government, so far no tangible efforts have been made to bring about uniformity and parity in the wages of the employees of English newspapers and those of other language newspapers and small newspapers. This glaring discrimination is causing great anguish and disaffection among the affected employees of the newspapers. I want to know whether the Government is thinking of taking recourse to corrective measures and formulation of an appropriate law to make default in this regard punitive. Secondly, while the majority of private and public sector employees enjoy the benefit of pension fund, gratuity, medical facilities, housing facilties and other perks, it is unfortunate that our newspaper employees are not getting the benefit of such schemes... (*Interruptions*).

श्री सभापति : आप संक्षेप में प्रश्न कर लीजिए ।

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government proposes to take stern and steady measures to enforce uniform compliance by the concerned to do away with such avoirable discrimination as well as marked disparity in the emoluments of our Indian newspaper employees and their counterparts... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to be brief I can't permit to minutes for a questions. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Minister kindly reply... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P A. SANGMA: Sir, all these aspects have been gone into by the Wage Board itself. The Bachawat Wage Board has categorized the establishments into nine categories. The main basis that they have fixed was the gross turnover of the nuewspaper establishments and, as I said earlier, it is these criteria on the basis of which the Bachawat Committee had come to a conclusion and given an award. These very criteria are being challenged before the Supreme Court at the moment. That is the reason why we wanted this point to be settled first.

As far as the safety and other aspects of the working journalists are concerend, we have appointed an expert committee. They have submitted a report and it has been referred to an inter-Ministerial committee, and I am given to understand that it would submit its report in July this year. After that we will take a view on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope it will be decided this year.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I will try, Sir.

The third part of the question is about pension. We are at the final stage of formulation of a pension scheme for all the provident fund subscribers. Yesterday only I had cooasion to inform the Lok Sabha that before we take a final decision I intend ro discuss with the various unions of working journalists in the country and we will take a decision very soon.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : जनाब चेयरमन साहब, यह जो सवाल किया गया है समें मेरा पहला एतराज़ यह है (**व्यवधान**)

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل :

جناب چیر مین صاحب - یہ جو سوال کیا گیا ہے - اسمیں میرا اعتراض یہ ہے (مداخلت)]

श्री सभापति : एतराज़ मत कीजिए, सवाल कीजिए। सवाल पर एतराज़ करेंगे तो बहुत मुश्किल हो जाएगा।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूं लेकिन ज़रा सी वजाहत की जरूरत है (**व्यवधान**)

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل :

میں سوال ہی پوچھ رہا ہوں - لیکن ذرا سی وضاحت کی ضرورت ہے - (مداخلت)

श्री सभापति : सवाल कर रहे हैं तो सवाल करने वाले को मंत्री जी जवाब क्या देंगे।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : इसका ताल्लुक इनफारमेशन मिनिस्ट्री से भी है। इन्फारमेशन और ब्राडकास्टिंग मिनिस्टर भी यहां मौजूद हैं। यह तो बिल्कुल सही है बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट लागू करनी चाहिए। जैसे कि अभी वज़ारे मौसुफ़ ने फ़रमाया कि 574 अख़बारों ने इसको लागू किया और 962 ने लागू नहीं किया। मेरा बहुत ही अहम प्रश्न यह है कि इसका ताल्लुक एक दूसरी मिनिस्ट्री से है। मैं आपका प्रोटेक्शन चाहता हूं क्योंकि इस मसले में हम को बड़ी तकलीफ़ होती है। जब भी हम सवाल करते हैं तो यह कह दिया जाता है कि इसका ताल्लुक दूसरी मिनिस्ट्री से है। जब यह बहुत ज्यादा रिलेटेड है (**व्यवधान**)

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل

اسکا تعلق انفارمیشن سے بھی ہے - انفارمیشن اور براڈ کاسٹنگ منسٹر بھی یہاں موجود ہیں - یہ تو بالکل صحیح ہے - یہ وزارت کامرشی کی رپورٹ لاگو کرنی چاہئے - جیسے کہ ابھی وزیر موصوف نے فرمایا کہ ۵۷۴ اخباروں نے اسکو لاگو کیا - اور ۹۶۲ نے لاگو نہیں کیا - میرا بہت ہی اہم پرشن یہ ہے کہ اسکا تعلق ایک دوسری منسٹری سے ہے - میں آپکی پروٹیکشن چاہتا ہوں کیونکہ اس مسئلے میں ہم کو بڑی تکلیف ہوتی ہے - جب بھی ہم سوال کرتے ہیں تو یہ کہہ دیا جاتا ہے کہ اسکا تعلق دوسری منسٹری سے ہے - جبکہ یہ بہت زیادہ ریلیٹیڈ ہے (مداخلت)]

श्री सभापति : आपका मशविरा यह है कि दोनों मिनिस्ट्रीज को एक कर दिया जाए।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : एक नहीं कर दिया जाए लेकिन कोआर्डिनेशन जरूर हो और कम से कम यहां हाउस में कोआर्डिनेशन दिखाना ही चाहिए। बचावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट लागू होनी चाहिए। इस पर कोई एतराज़ नहीं होना चाहिए। हमारे अखबारात के जितने इम्पलाइज हैं उनको वेजेज ठीक से मिलने चाहिए लेकिन न्यूजपेपर्ज की आमदनी का भी इससे ताल्लुक है। आपने जो 574 अखबारात (**व्यवधान**)

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل :

ایک نہیں کر دیا جائے - لیکن کوارڈینیشن ضرور ہو اور کم سے کم یہاں ہاؤس میں کوآرڈینیشن ہی دکھانا چاہئے - بچھاوت کمیشن کی رپورٹ لاگو ہونی چاہئے - اس پر کوئی اعتراض نہیں ہونا چاہئے - ہمارے اخبارات کے جتنے ایمپلائز ہیں انکو ویجز ٹھیک سے ملنے چاہئے - لیکن نیوز پیپرز کی آمدنی کا بھی اس سے تعلق ہے - آپ نے جو ۵۷۴ اخبارات (مداخلت)]

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल कर लीजिए ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : मैं सवाल कर रहा हूं। यह बताया जाए कि उसमें लग्वेज पेपज कितने हैं और जो 962 हैं उसमें अंग्रेजी के अखबार कितने हैं। मेरा दावा है कि जो अंग्रेजी के अखबार हैं **(व्यवधान)**

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل:

میں سوال کر رہا ہوں - یہ بتایا جائے کہ اسمیں لینگویج پیپر کتنے ہیں اور جو ۹۶۲ ہیں اسمیں انگریزی اخبار کتنے ہیں - میرا دعوی ہے کہ جو انگریزی کے اخبار ہیں .. (مداخلت) . . .]

श्री सभापति : यह बताइये । How many are English papers, and how many are vernacular papersc?

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : यह सवाल का "ए" पार्ट है, अब मैं दूसरा पार्ट पूछ रहा हूं । **(व्यवधान)** मैं उसी मसले की तरफ आ रहा हूं । जो छोटे अखबारात है खास तौर से लैंग्वेज अखबारात हैं, उन पेपर्ज को सरकारी और दूसरे इदारे जब एडवरटाइजमेंट नहीं देंगे, उनका रेवेन्यू नहीं बढ़ेगा तो इछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को कैसे लागू करेंगे **(व्यवधान)**

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل :

یہ سوال کا اے پارٹ ہے - اب میں دوسرا پارٹ پوچھ رہا ہوں - (مداخلت) میں اسی مسئلے کی طرف آ رہا ہوں- جو چھوٹے اخبارات ہیں خاص طور سے لینگویج اخبارات ہیں - ان پیپرز کو سرکاری اور دوسرے اداروں جب ایڈورٹائزمنٹ نہیں دینگے- انکا ریونیو نہیں بڑھے گا- تو بچھاوت کمیشن کی رپورٹ کیسے لاگو کریں گے - (مداخلت)]

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन कर लीजिए ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : मेरा कहना यह हैं कि जो लैंग्वेज पेपर्ज हैं इनको 1991 में जो इश्तेहारात दिये गये उसमें बहुत ही अफसोस की बात है कि अंग्रेजी को 5 करोड़ 82 लाख रुपये के इश्तेहारात दिये गये और हिन्दी को चार करोड़ के और दूसरी 15 जबानों को सिर्फ चार सवा चार करोड़ रुपये के इश्तेहार देंगे तो फिर यह बताया जाए कि वो रिपोर्ट को कैसे लागू करेंगे ?

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل :

میرا کہنا یہ ہے کہ جو لینگویج پیپرز ہیں انکو 1991 میں جو اشتہارات دیئے گئے اسمیں بہت ہی افسوس کی بات ہے کہ انگریزی کو ۲ کروڑ ۸۲ لاکھ روپئے کے اشتہارات دیئے گئے اور ہندی کو چار کروڑ روپئے کے اور دوسری ۱۵ زبانوں کو سوا چار کروڑ روپئے کے اشتہارات دیئے تو پھر یہ بتایا جائے کہ رپورٹ کیسے لاگو کریں گے -]

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल मैं कर देता हूं ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : मेरा कहना यह है कि आप बजारते इत्तेलात और नशरियात से रिक्वेस्ट करेंगे या आदेश देंगे कि लैंग्वेज पेपर्ज को ज्यादा इश्तेहारात दिये जायें ताकि वह बचावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को लागू कर सकें ?

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م- افضل:

میرا کہنا یہ ہے کہ آپ وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات سے ریکویسٹ کرینگے یا آدیش دینگے کہ لینگویج پیپرز کو زیادہ سے زیادہ اشتہارات دیئے جائیں تاکہ وہ بچھاوت کمیشن کو لاگو کر سکیں -]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking how many of those who have not implemented are large newspapers and how many are small newspapers and whether you will

see that the small newspapers will get a larger number of advertisements. Have you sympathy for the small newspapers or not?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I must thank you for over-ruling his objection right at the beginning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not over-ruled. I have only translated it in brief in English for your benefit.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Unfortunately I do not have the break-up of the language newspapers and the English newspapers. I will find out and pass it on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about large papers and small papers.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: But, Sir, I have State-wise figures.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : आपके पास यह इनफारमेशन होनी चाहिए । You must be able to say which newspaper was given the Bachawat Commission award. मेरा ख्याल है मंत्री जी पूरी तैयारी कर के नहीं आए हैं ।

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी बहुत तैयार हैं ।

श्री पी० ए० संगमा : मेरे पास दफ्तर में इनफारमेशन है । अभी इस वक्त मेरे पास इनफारमेशन नहीं है । मैं इनफारमेशन क्लेक्ट कर के आपको जरूर बताऊंगा Sir, may I take the opportunity to appeal to all the hon. Members of this august House to impress upon their respective State Governments to see that the State Governments take measures...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take it for granted that everyone of them will be doing it.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: ...to see that implementation is done.

Sir, for the information of the House, I will say that the number of establishments which have not implemented the award are:

Out of 420 establishments in West Bengal, those who have not implemented number 407. (*Interruptions*)

In Delhi, out of 90, it is 38.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is your responsibility. That is the responsibility of the Central Government.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Madhya Pradesh is 20, Bihar is 137, Manipur is 82, very high, Assam is 67, Meghalaya 1, Maharashtra 64, Uttar Pradesh 55. These are the major numbers in the States. So, once again I would appeal...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't you have the figures of large and small newspapers? Can you give the figures about which are large papers and which are small newspapers? You are not giving. Mr. Meem Afzal is saying that because they are not getting revenue of advertisements, they are not able to do it. Will you talk to the Minister concerned and persuade him to give advertisements to small newspapers?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Can he give the names of the newspapers, Sir?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I will certainly give the information.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, this question has taken half an-hour.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सर, जो उन्होंने जवाब दिया है वह गलत दिया है।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I was listening to the reply of the hon. Minister. The Supreme Court judgement that he is talking about, I think, has become a very convenient excuse for the real intention of the Government not to implemen the Award. In connection with the Supreme Court Judgment I want to ask...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said because of the cases peding he is not putting up a new Board.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: That is why I want to point out. First of all, only certain newspapers have gone to the Supreme Court. Not all. When only certain groups of newspapers have gone to the Court, the order that has been passed by the Supreme Court is not a stay order. The Court only said that you should not prosecute. It applies only to those papers. Therefore, the Government cannot take refuge under that. It is well-known that the Supreme Court orders do not apply to those who have not gone to the Court. My question is very simple. I want to know why the Government has taken the stand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you not asking those papers who have not gone to the court?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: My question is specific. I want to know why the Government has taken a stand in Parliament that the Award cannot be implemented because of financial constrainst. This is the stand taken by the Government in the Lok Sabha. I have got it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You talk about Rajya Sabha. That is another House.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Let him say so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't mix up the two Houses.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Let him say so I want to know the sand of the Government. Then it will affect the argument in the Supreme Court.

Part (b) of my question is: is the Government aware of the fact that the penalty for non-implementation of the Award under the Working Journalists Act is noly Rs. 200 as fine? This a pathetic penalty. Nobody will implement the Award and any newspaper establishment will just pay the Rs. 200 penalty. So, this is making a joke of the implementation. Will the Government think of amending it to provide for more serious punishment?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you amend the Act to get rid of the joke?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The Government has, at no point of time, taken a stand that the Bachawat Award cannot be implemented because of financial constraints. But, Sir, it is not the Government which has to implement it. It is the newspaper establishments who have to implement it. So, we have not taken that position at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your position?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Secondly, the hon. Member is very right that because there are 24 cases pending before the Supreme Court, it does not mean that other newspapers should not implement it. To that extent legal opinion has been obtained and the hon. Member is very right. But my position is that the competent authority to implement the Award lies with the State Government and not witht he Central Government. That is the position. That in the problem.

The third question that the hon. Member has put is about the penal section—sections 17 and 18 of the Act. I have already mentioned it. These two sections are very vague and the suggestion of the hon. Member has been noted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy. You also be brief.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: If I have understood my hon. friend correctly, he has only expressed a pious wish...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a pious man.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:.. or at the most he has made an appeal to the Members of Parliament, and not to the State Governments, that the Award should be implemented. May I ask him what steps his Ministry has taken to persuade the State Governments to implement the Award. If any step has been taken in this regard, at what time has it been taken and what has been the reaction of the

State Government in this matter ? I would also like to know whether any time frame has been given or has been evolved by Centre in consultation with the State Governments for the implementation of the Award. As you know, the whole House is exercised about their issue. This is important and no Member here would like the Award go unimplemented for long.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : It is not a fact that I have appealed only to the hon. Members. In my reply to the first Supplementary I have appealed to the State Governments also. We have been reminding the State Governments and my colleague, the Deputy Minister, has addressed letters to the Labour Ministers of the States. We have suggested to them that there should be a tripartite committee constituted at every State level to monitor and to see the implementation of the Bachawat Award. That we have impressed upon the State Governments. Sir, we are awaiting their reply.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम :आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, आज की दुनियां में अखबार की सेवायें बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं ।

श्री सभापति : संक्षेप में पूछिए ।

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम : सर, मैं बहुत छोटा सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं । माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को कुछ अखबारों ने लागू किया है और कुछ अखबारों ने लागू नहीं किया है : तो मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में या सरकार की तरफ से कोई ऐसा मानक या स्टेण्डर्ड निर्धारित किया गया है कि छोटे अखबार या बहुत से बड़े अखबार, जिनकी बाध्यता होगी कि वह स्वयं बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को लागू करें ? क्योंकि अभी हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि छोटे अखबारों को इससे छूट दी जानी चाहिए। तो क्या कोई ऐसा स्टेण्डर्ड उसमें निर्धारित किया गया है कि किन अखबारों को मानना पड़ेगा और किन अखबारों को उनसे छूट मिल सकेगी ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member hundred per cent that the newspapers are doing a very important service to the nation. There is no dispute about that at all. As far as the categorisation is concerned of various newspapers, I have already stated that Bachawat Wage Board has made nine categories of the newspaper establishments on the basis of the gross revenue and gross turn over. It is this very categorisation which is being challenged in the Supreme Court. That is the point which I have already answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Q No. 62.

Production target of Bharat Electronics Limited

*62. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the production target of Bharat Electronics Limited for the current financial year;

(b) what was the sales turn-over of BEL during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some new units of BEL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The production target of Bharat Electronics Limited for the current financial year (1992-93) is Rs. 834 crores.

(b) The sales turn-over of BEL during the last three years was as under :—

Year	Sales Turn-Over
	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	645
1990-91	724
1991-92	724
	(Provisonal)